

February 4, 1986
Sister Marcelline (Jennie Kane)

In the file on Jennie Kane is a letter of recommendation, dated June 27, 1921, from Father Fisher, her pastor at St. Patrick in Wyandotte. The pastor writes: "I am confident that she will prove a very good member." Sixty-five years later, her IHM and other associates will attest that Father Fisher was so right-- Jennie did not disappoint him or the superior who accepted her into the IHM community.

The future Sister Marcelline entered the postulate before her senior year in high school. Hers was the third religious vocation among the nine children of Joseph and Ann (Theisen) Kane, both of whom had been students of the IHM sisters at St. Patrick in Carleton, Michigan. The oldest boy, Clarence, became a priest in the Archdiocese of Detroit; the oldest daughter, Marcella, became Sister Mary Edmund, IHM.

On January 2, 1922, Sister Marcelline received the blue IHM habit. The next fall, she began a very long teaching career. She continued as a grade school teacher until she received her B.S. in Education from Marygrove College in 1938. After that she taught in various high schools in Detroit and other Michigan cities. By the time she received her Master of Education from Wayne State University in 1952, Sister Marcelline's particular educational talents had long been recognized. But there were other skills as well. Each summer, she was to be found doing fine sewing for the community. With Sisters Claretta, Mary Hugh and others, she worked on bridal gowns for the reception ceremonies. A very rare "A+" appears on her scholastic record for the course in clothing she took at Marygrove one summer after completing her Masters program.

Later years in the classroom were devoted to teaching Home Economics and managing the school library. In 1970, she 'retired' to the Motherhouse to become a sacristan, along with her sister, Sister Mary Edmund. For ten years Sister Marcelline devoted hours of faithful service to her chapel charge, keeping every aspect in admirable perfection, each task an act of praise and love for the hidden God so close on the altar.

In Sister Marcelline's final years, active service had to be curtailed but her prayer life increased steadfastly as her bodily pain and weakness advanced. Sister Marcelline returned to the Lord and God she had so painstakingly and faithfully served, confident that she had indeed finished the work He had given her to do. A community grateful for her life with them mourned her loss.

Sister Catherine Walrad